## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

On 7 October 1950 I will relinquish the position of Director of Central Intelligence to Lieutenant General Walter B. Smith, United States Army.

I cannot depart without expressing to each individual member of this Agency my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for the fine and loyal support which I have received during the more than three years I have held my present office.

We have experienced together the hard knocks, the real difficulties, and the successes involved in our mutual responsibilities, and I can say honestly that we have made very considerable progress together in a field beset by complexities and problems always inherent in pioneering a new field.

I am sure that each of you will give to your new Director, General Smith, the same loyal and vigorous support which I have received, and that the Central Intelligence Agency will continue to grow in capability and stature under his leadership.

I wish continued success and happiness for each of you, and you may be sure that I will miss our association when I have gone.

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R. H. HILLENKOETTER

Rear Admiral, USN

Director of Central Intelligence

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